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-----**MEDIA RELEASE**-----

**HARTFORD AIMS TO BE A MAJOR
“WIRELESS HOTSPOT”**

(June 16, 2005)--- Mayor Eddie Perez wants to make Hartford a top tier wireless city. Right now, the Capital City ranks #31 out of 100, according to a new industry study. Mayor Perez says, “Having access to wireless capability is becoming part of everyday life in America and Hartford needs to be in the forefront of this availability in technology.”

Seattle and San Francisco rank as the top two cities in the country for wireless capability. Boston is #13 and Hartford is the top ranking Connecticut City.

Mayor Perez wants to significantly improve Hartford’s showing on this list. He says, “This is a quality of life issue. Businesses can use wireless Internet access as a way to attract perspective employees and customers. Visitors need to be able to use it in our hotels and coffee shops. But most importantly, Hartford families need to have Internet access everywhere in the City--- from their homes and schools to libraries and parks--- even at the laundry mat. If Hartford is one big “Hotspot”, we’ll increase knowledge, access, opportunity, and services for those who live, work, and play in the Capital City.”

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In his State of the City Address last March, Mayor Perez outlined his goals for wireless technology. He stated that it was time for the City of Hartford to fully commit itself to building a technology infrastructure that “opens the doors of opportunity to all City residents and closes the gap in the digital divide.”

Three important steps are being taken to achieve a wireless Hartford:

- 1. We should build a wireless Internet network that covers the City of Hartford and provides free Internet access to our residents.**
- 2. We should step up our efforts to put more computers--- at significantly reduced prices--- in Hartford households.**
- 3. We should enhance our efforts to make libraries and schools the center of community learning for families who wish to learn more about computer technology and the world-wide-web.**

The Mayor’s formal strategic wireless plan is set to be unveiled later this year.

For more information, contact Sarah Barr, Director of Communications, at (860) 522-4888 x6217.